

Opening of the Spring Festival of Black Expression sponsored by the Contemporary Black Arts Program at UCSD

April 29, 1981

A dance performance by the Wajumbe Cultural Ensemble will open the Spring Festival of Black Expression Sunday, May 10, at the University of California, San Diego.

The ensemble will present an evening of dance and music at 8 p.m. in the Mandeville Center Auditorium. The festival will continue Tuesday, May 19, with a jazz film festival, and conclude Saturday, May 30, with a gospel music concert.

The Wajumbe Cultural Ensemble is a San Francisco-based collective which promotes black culture. The ensemble performs contemporary dance as well as traditional dance and music from Africa, the Caribbean and South America. The troupe was selected in 1977 to attend the Second World Festival of Black and Afrikan Arts and Crafts and Culture in Lagos, Nigeria.

Admission to the dance concert is \$4.

The jazz film festival will feature a selection of jazz features and a lecture by filmmaker John Jeremy in the Mandeville Center Auditorium. Jeremy's critically acclaimed films, including "Blues Like Showers of Rain" and "Jazz is Our Religion," are social as well as musical documentaries.

"If it's his technical ability that's responsible for the final impact of these films, it's his deep feeling for the music that's guided him unerringly towards the right material," wrote a Jazz Journal critic of Jeremy and his work.

To conclude the festival, Reverend Donald Vails will lead the UCSD Gospel Choir in a free concert at 8 p.m. May 30 in the Calvary Baptist Church at 719 Crosby Street near the Coronado Bridge.

Reverend Vails, a music teacher in the Detroit city schools, is a well-known recording artist, composer, arranger and musician. He is a board member of the National Gospel Music Workshop of America and is founder and director of the 75-member choir, the Donald Vails Choraleers.

The Spring Festival of Black Expression is being sponsored by the Contemporary Black Arts Program at UC San Diego, along with the departments of music and drama. Tickets are available at the UCSD Central Box Office, 452-4559.

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